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MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

BAPTIST CONVENTION OF ALA.,

HELD AT

SELMA, DALLAS COUNTY,

DECEMBER 3, 4, 5, AND 6, 1853;

AND OF THE

ALABAMA BAPTIST FIELD SOCIETY

HELD AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE.



TUSKEGEE, Ala :

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE S. W. BAPTIST.

1854.

OFFICERS OF THE CONVENTION:

H. TALBIRD, *President*,
WM. P. CHILTON, *1st Vice P.*
M. P. JEWETT, *2nd " P.*

P. H. LUNDY, *Rec. Sec'y*,
J. H. DEVOTIE, *Cor. Sec'y*,
S. H. FOWLKES, *Treasurer*.

Directors:

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WM. HORNBUCKLE,
J. T. BARRON,
A. B. GOODHUE,
R. HOLMAN,

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W. N. WYATT,
J. W. GARRETT,
W. T. HENDON.

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SAML. FOWLKES, Esq.,
LANGSTON GOREE, Esq.,
JAMES L. GOREE, Esq.,

LARKIN Y. TARRANT, Esq.,
JOHN LOCKHART, Esq.,
WM. N. WYATT, Esq.,
WM. HORNBUCKLE, Esq.

MINUTES

OF THE

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF ALABAMA,

FOR 1853.

The CONVENTION met in the Meeting House of the Baptist Church in the city of SELMA, Ala., at 11 o'clock A. M., on Saturday, Dec. 3d. 1853.

After reading a portion of the Scriptures, and prayer being offered by Rev. Henry Talbird, D. D., letters from the following bodies were read and the delegates took their seats, viz:

ASSOCIATIONS:

ALABAMA—W. B. Haralson, I. T. Tichenor, P. H. Lundy, D. Peebles, W. W. Hardy, S. Frederick, Lewis Johnston.

AUTAUGA—J. I. Lamar, A. Andrews, J. Lamar, J. Nunn, D. Lamar, J. H. Burns, A. B. Hughes.

CAHABA—J. G. Huckabee, Alfred Muckle, W. Wilkes.

CANAAN—John T. Cain, J. H. Baker, N. Haggard.

COOSA RIVER—J. A. Collins, James Headen, Walker Reynolds, J. L. M. Curry, William Curry.

BIGBEE—W. Howard, E. B. Teague.

BETHLEHEM—F. Straughan, W. C. Morrow.

BETHEL—John Talbot, J. Rives, A. A. Connella.

LIBERTY (East)—Jefferson Falkner.

SALEM—W. H. McIntosh, J. T. S. Park.

TUSKEGEE—S. Henderson, A. J. Battle, J. M. Newman, J. M. Watt, J. F. Hooten.

PINE BARREN—K. Hawthorn, E. E. Kirvin, C. W. Hare.

LITTLE BIGBEE RIVER—W. Howard, E. B. Teague.

WEST FLORIDA—Funds.

CHEROKEE—Funds.

TUSCALOOSA—Funds.

CHURCHES.

BETHANY (Lowndes co.)—P. H. Lundy, W. B. Haralson, John Haralson.

TALLADEGA (Talladega co.)—O. Welch, W. Reynolds, L. W. Lawler, Jasper Wilson.

NEWBERN—R. Holman, J. C. Curry.

CENTRE RIDGE—C. F. Sturgis R. P. Lide, Joseph Lide, C. B. Watts.

BENTON—James Brasier.

PROVIDENCE (Dallas co.)—A. W. Berry, John A. Norwood.

SELMA—W. Wilkes, John Wilmer, J. E. Prestidge, F. M. Law, Wiley Melton.

SALEM—R. Holman.

SHILOH (Dallas co) William Johnston, W. C. Cleveland, M. S. Cleveland.

ASH CREEK—J. O. Miller.

LIBERTY (Dallas co.)—James M. Lamar.

CONCORD—J. R. Reeves.

SILAM—A. B. Goodhue, J. F. Bailey, T. J. Barron, M. P. Jewett, Samuel Freeman.

BETHESDA (Chambers co.)—Jefferson Falkner.

SPRING HILL—A. A. Connella, L. B. Lane.

MONTGOMERY—I. T. Tichenor, A. Williams, A. B. McWhorter, B. B. Davis.

WETUMPKA—D. R. W. McIver.

ROCK WEST—K. Hawthorn.

COUNTY LINE—E. E. Kirvin.

HOPEWELL—S. R. Freeman, D. S. Hogue.

MOUNT PLEASANT—John S. Ford.

CAHABA—J. T. Allen.

BETHEL (Green co.)—J. S. Abbott.

PROVIDENCE (Sumpter)—Funds.

TUSCALOOSA—Funds.

LIBERTY CHURCH—James M. Lenoir.

ST. FRANCIS ST. (Mobile)—T. G. Keene.

UNION TOWN—Funds.

FELLOWSHIP—Funds.

OTHER BODIES.

LADIES' SOCIETY OF PROVIDENCE CHURCH—E. B. Teague,

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE MISSIONARY BOX AT COLLIERENE—P.

H. Landy, Wm. Tharin.

JUDSON FEMALE INSTITUTE MISSIONARY SOCIETY—M. P. Jewett.

GAINESVILLE FEMALE MISSIONARY SOCIETY—W. Howard.

BLOUNTSVILLE HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY—W. Whaley.

LIFE MEMBERS.

M. P. Jewett, C. H. Cleveland, David Gordon, A. G. McCraw, W. A. Melton, W. N. Wyatt, H. Talbird, J. B. Nave, Edmund King, James H. Devotic, Thomas Barlow.

CORRESPONDING BODIES.

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION—J. B. Taylor, Cor. Sec., W. H. Clark.

BOARD OF DOMESTIC MISSIONS, SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION—Joseph Walker Cor. Sec., J. L. Shuck.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY—D. G. Daniel.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION—A. Van Hoose.

RECAPITULATION.

There were represented in Convention, 16 Associations, 29 Churches, 5 other bodies, 4 corresponding bodies. Compared with last year there were 1 Association and 5 Churches more, and of other bodies one less. Corresponding bodies the same.

The Convention was then fully organized by the election of officers.

Rev. HENRY TALBIRD, D. D., of Marion, was elected President. Rev. P. H. LUNDY, Secretary, and Rev. J. M. WATT, Assistant Secretary.

A letter enclosing 60418-100 dollars from Bro. William Jenkins, Sen., was read and ordered to be printed in the minutes. [See Appendix A.]

The Pastor and Deacons of Selma Church, with brethren J. F. Baily, and Morgan Cleveland, were appointed a Committee on the religious services of the Convention.

The following brethren were appointed a Committee to nominate the remaining officers of the Convention, viz: A. A. Connella, A. B. Goodhue, and J. D. Williams.

Ministers not members of the Convention, were invited to seats in the same.

Adjourned until 2 1-2 o'clock, P. M.

SATURDAY, 2 1-2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Met according to adjournment.

The following brethren were appointed a committee on Finance: J. M. Newman, W. N. Wyatt, and L. B. Lane.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The President announced the following Committees to report during the present session:

ON THE STATE OF RELIGION—D. Peebles, J. S. Ford, and W. B. Haralson.

ON LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS—O. Welch, J. Falkner, and J. H. Devotie.

ON PERIODICALS—I. T. Tichenor, A. J. Battle and W. Howard.

The use of the Methodist and Presbyterian houses of worship were kindly tendered to the Convention during the sitting of the same; and the offer was thankfully accepted.

The Report of the Committee on Temperance, was read and adopted. [See Appendix B.]

Brethren S. Henderson, M. P. Jewett, and C. F. Sturgis were appointed a special Committee to draft a memorial upon the License system to be presented to the Legislature of Alabama during the present Session.

The following persons were appointed to represent this body, in the Temperance Convention to be held in Montgomery on Wednesday, January 5, 1854, viz: S. Henderson, O. Welch, W. B. Haralson, W. Wilkes, John Wilmer, David Gordon, A. G. McCraw, J. D. Williams, K. Hawthorn, J. H. Devotie, K. L. Haralson, J. M. Watt, P. H. Lundy, W. P. Chilton, I. T. Tichenor, D. Peebles, D. R. W. McIver, and A. B. McWhorter.

The Report of the Trustees of the Judson Female Institute,

was read and referred to the Committee on Education. [Appendix C.]

Appointed the next meeting of this Convention to be held with the Siloam Church in the town of Marion, on Friday before the second Lord's day in December, 1854.

Appointed Corresponding Delegates, to the *Georgia Baptist State Convention*, to be held in the town of Washington, Wilkes County, on Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in April, 1854, viz: P. H. Landy, W. Wilkes, C. F. Sturgis, D. Gordon, Joseph Walker and C. Battle.

To the *Mississippi Baptist State Convention*, Joseph Walker.

The Committee on Religious Services reported the following order of exercises for to-night and to-morrow.

ANNIVERSARY SERMON, on Saturday night, 7 o'clock, by Rev. Joseph Walker.

MISSIONARY SERMON, at 11 o'clock on Sabbath, by Rev. J. L. Shuck.

BIBLE SERMON, at 7 o'clock, P. M., on Sabbath, by Rev. J. H. Devotie.

The above named discourses to be delivered at the Baptist Church; and a Mass Missionary Meeting to be held at the same place at 3 o'clock, on Sabbath afternoon.

At the Presbyterian Church, at 11 o'clock, A. M., on Sabbath, a sermon by Rev. E. B. Teague, and at 7 o'clock, P. M. a sermon by Rev. W. Howard.

At the Methodist Church, at 11 o'clock, A. M., on Sabbath, a sermon by Rev. I. T. Tichenor; and at 7 o'clock, P. M., a sermon by Rev. S. Henderson.

To the Colored people, in the basement of the Presbyterian Church at 3 o'clock, P. M., on Sabbath, a sermon by Rev. R. Holman; at the Methodist Church at the same hour, a sermon by Rev. J. S. Ford.

Adjourned until 7 o'clock in the evening. Closing prayer by Brother M. P. Jewett.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Met at the Baptist Church, when the Anniversary Discourse was delivered by Rev. Joseph Walker according to appointment, the brethren who were appointed last year, having failed to arrive in time. The sermon was delivered to a large audience and was well adapted to the occasion. At the close of the services, the Convention adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock on Monday morning.

LORD'S DAY, December 4.

The services of the day were all performed according to the appointments of the Committee announced on yesterday. The congregations were large and attentive, and the ministers who preached labored as good stewards of God. The Mass

Missionary Meeting was well attended, and interesting addresses were delivered by brethren H. Talbird, J. Walker, W. H. Clark, and T. G. Keene, after which a collection was taken in behalf of Missions.

At night the *Alabama Baptist Bible Society*, held its annual meeting. The Anniversary Sermon was delivered by Rev. J. H. Devotie; after which the Society held its meeting.—The minutes of which will be found in connection with the minutes of this Convention.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock, }
December 5, 1854, }

The Convention met. Prayer by Bro. O. Welch.

The Minutes were read and adopted.

On motion Rev. James B. Taylor, Corresponding Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, was invited to address the Convention at 3 1-2 o'clock, P. M.

The report of the Board of Directors was read and adopted. [see Appendix D.]

The report of Rev. D. P. Bestor, Agent for Howard College, was, upon motion, referred to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees of "The Society for the relief of the families of deceased and superannuated Ministers," created at a former session of this body, made their report through Dr. A. B. McWhorter. The report was re-committed and the committee enlarged by the addition of brethren M. P. Jewett, C. F. Sturgis, S. Henderson and T. G. Keene.

Adjourned until 2 1-2 o'clock, P. M.

2 1-2 o'clock.

The Convention met for business.

The following brethren were appointed a committee on claims, to whom was referred the report of the Treasurer: J. F. Bailey, D. Gordon, and A. G. McCraw.

Appointed J. F. Bailey, R. Holman, and J. S. Ford a committee to nominate preachers for the next Convention.

The report of the committee appointed to submit a plan for rendering permanent aid to the beneficiaries of Howard College, was read and adopted, [Appendix E.]

The committee on Domestic Missions made their report, which was also adopted, [Appendix F.]

The committee on Sabbath Schools read their report which was adopted, [Appendix G.]

The committee on the State of Religion made their report which was adopted, [Appendix H.]

The committee on Foreign Missions offered their report, and after interesting remarks from brethren J. B. Taylor, Cor. Sec., of the Foreign Mission Board, and W. H. Clark, Missionary elect, to Central Africa, it was adopted, [Appendix I.]

The committee to nominate the remaining officers of the Convention made their report which was concurred in, [Appendix J.]

The report of the committee to draft a memorial to the Legislature, was read and adopted, [Appendix K.]

Adjourned until Tuesday Morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by Bro. S. Henderson.

The sermon on Education was delivered on Monday night by Rev. C. F. Sturgis.

TUESDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, }
Dec. 6, 1854. }

The Convention met. Prayer by Bro. O. Welch.

The following persons were appointed Corresponding Messengers to the Associations in this State, viz :

- To Alabama*—C. F. Sturgis, H. Talbird, P. H. Lundy ;
 - To Autauga*—D. R. W. McIver, C. F. Sturgis ;
 - To Bethel*—A. A. Connella, M. B. Clement, D. Peebles ;
 - To Bethlehem*—W. C. Morrow, K. Hawthorn ;
 - To Central*—J. D. Williams, W. Wilkes ;
 - To Cahaba*—R. Holman, L. L. Fox ;
 - To Canaan*—A. J. Waldrop, J. A. Collins, H. E. Taliaferro ;
 - To Cherokee*—W. C. Mymatt, W. C. Harris ;
 - To Coosa River*—H. E. Taliaferro, J. D. Williams, O. Welch ;
 - To Judson*—G. G. McClendon, S. Henderson ;
 - To Liberty West*—S. R. Freeman, E. B. Teague ;
 - To Liberty North*—J. H. Devotie, H. E. Taliaferro ;
 - To Liberty East*—T. G. Freeman, A. Williams ;
 - To Little Bigbee River*—D. P. Bestor, R. Holman, M. B. Clement ;
 - To Muscle Shoals*—A. P. Musgrove, Jos. Walker ;
 - To North River*—J. H. Foster, J. C. Foster ;
 - To Pine Barren*—C. W. Hare, C. F. Sturgis ;
 - To Salem*—W. H. McIntosh, S. Henderson ;
 - To Tallasschatchie*—J. A. Collins, S. G. Jenkins ;
 - To Tuskegee*—S. Henderson, I. T. Tichenor ;
 - To Tuskalooza*—J. H. Foster, Wm. Howard ;
 - To Shelby*—O. Welch, H. E. Taliaferro ;
 - To Union*—M. Lyon, B. Manly, Sen.
- Which was adopted.

The committee on Letters and Documents state that they find nothing to report.

The report of the committee on Periodicals was submitted and laid upon the table for the present.

The report of the committee on Education was offered, and after interesting addresses from a number of brethren, was adopted, [Appendix L.]

Whereupon the Rev. Saml. Henderson was unanimously elected to act as agent for collecting funds for Howard College. On motion his salary was fixed at \$1600 per annum, to be raised by private subscription. A subscription was opened and several hundred dollars subscribed to the object. Bro. H. asked for a short time to consider the question.*

Adjourned until 2 1-2 o'clock, P. M.

2 1-2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Convention met for business.

The following brethren were appointed a committee to nominate the Trustees of Howard College for the ensuing year, viz: S. Henderson, M. P. Jewett, and W. H. McIntosh.

The report of the Trustees of Howard College was read and adopted, [Appendix M.]

The Committee on Finance made their report. It was referred to the committee on claims for auditing.

The resignation of brother Wm. Hornbuckle, as trustee of Howard College was accepted.

The Committee on the Southern Baptist Publication Society, made their report which was adopted, [Appendix N.]

Resolved, that during the Sessions of this body in future, the Alabama Baptist Bible Society shall have Monday afternoon, for the transaction of its business.

Adjourned until 7 o'clock, P. M.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Convention was called to order by the President.

The President announced the following standing committees to report at the next session of this body:

On Temperance—I. T. Tichenor, A. B. McWhorter, D. R. W. Melver.

On Education—W. H. McIntosh, A. J. Battle, J. F. Hooten

On Domestic Missions—D. R. W. Melver, J. D. Williams, B. B. Davis.

On Foreign Missions—C. F. Sturgis, E. E. Kirvin, R. P. Lide.

On Sabbath Schools—Wm. Howard, J. S. Abbot, E. B. Teague.

On Southern Baptist Publication Society—P. H. Lundy, Morgan Cleveland, D. Peebles.

On Indian Missions—A. A. Connella, J. H. Devotie, S. R. Freeman.

On the Condition of the Baptist Denomination in cities and large towns—T. G. Keene, I. T. Tichenor, Joseph Walker.

The committee to nominate Trustees for Howard College, reported the following names. The report was adopted, and the appointment of the following brethren, confirmed.

* He has since declined the appointment, (Secretary.)

J. F. Bailey, T. J. Barron, L. B. Lane, W. P. Chilton, H. Talbird; and J. Billingslea in the place of Wm. Hornbuckle resigned.

The committee on Periodicals made their report which was read and after undergoing some interchange of views among brethren was adopted. [Appendix, O.]

The consideration of the report of the Educational committee was resumed, so far as it respects the appointment of an Agent for Howard College. It was moved, that the agent who shall be appointed be instructed to combine, as far as possible, the two plans suggested by the committee, which motion was adopted. It was furthermore,

Resolved, That a circular be addressed by the officers of this convention to the various bodies composing it. In which circular it shall be stated what has been done for the endowment of Howard College; and urge on those bodies the necessity of their hearty co-operation in this work.

The report of the Committee who were appointed to examine the Treasurer's Report, was offered and adopted. [Appendix, P.]

The committee appointed to nominate preachers for the next session of this body, reported as follows, which report was concurred in.

The Anniversary Sermon, by T. G. Keene of Mobile, O. Welch of Talladega, alternate.

The Missionary Sermon, by E. B. Teague of Eutaw, P. H. Lundy Alternate.

The Education Sermon by A. Williams, of Montgomery, A. J. Battle, Alternate.

The Report of the committee on the Institution for the support of deceased, or superannuated Baptist Minister's families, was called for, and upon motion adopted, whereupon, the following committee was appointed to nominate a Board of Trustees for said Institution, viz: I. T. Tichenor, A. A. Connella, and J. H. Devotic. The committee after retiring for a time reported the following names, and the persons thus nominated were appointed said Board of Trustees, viz:

W. P. Chilton, B. F. Noble, T. H. Watts, W. P. Vandivere, W. W. Waller, C. Philips, A. B. McWhorter, H. W. Watson, and A. J. Picket.

The above named board of Trustees were authorized to fill any vacancies which may occur in their own body.

The Auditing Committee reported upon the Report of the Financial Committee, whereupon the latter report was adopted. [Appendix 2.]

In the absence of the Treasurer, brother W. N. Wyatt was appointed Treasurer *pro tem*, to convey the funds to that officer. It was ordered also, that the funds in hand to be applied to

the different Societies, be turned over to the proper officers of those societies who may be present.

Resolved, That the Bible funds of the Alabama Baptist Bible Society be freed from paying its *pro rata* share of printing the minutes.

Ordered, That the sum of ninety dollars be appropriated to pay for the printing of minutes, and that the Secretary be paid forty dollars for his services.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be cordially presented to those citizens of this city, who have extended so liberal a hospitality to the delegates and visitors during the Session.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to the Churches of Selma, which have given us the use of their houses of worship during the Session.

Resolved, That the unfinished business of this Convention be referred to the Board of Directors for its completion.

The Convention then adjourned to meet again in Session in the town of Marion, Perry County, on Friday before the 2d. Lord's day in December, 1854.

A parting hymn was sung, the parting hand extended and devout prayer offered to God, and the delegates returned to their homes.

HENRY TALBIRD, *President*.

P. H. LUNDY, *Sec'y*.

J. M. WATT, *Ass't. Secy*.

APPENDIX.

[A.]

MARDISVILLE, Ala., Oct. 15, 1853.

To the President and Members of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

DEAR BRETHREN:—I here send enclosed a check on one of the Banks of New York, for \$604 18, which I wish disposed of as follows: \$200 for the benefit of the Creek Indians; \$100 to assist in educating a native preacher of said nation of Indians, one that can come recommended by brother Beckner the Missionary in said nation; \$100 to assist young men preparing for the ministry in Howard College; \$100 to assist in sending a preacher to preach to the colored people in the most destitute parts of this State, and the balance, \$104 18 to assist in sending the Bible where it is most needed.

Yours with a sincere prayer for the success of all your labors and engagements.

WM. JENKINS, Secy.

[B.]

Report on Temperance.

Your Committee on Temperance respectfully submit:—That the Temperance cause has assumed, within a few years, an importance in all parts of our Country, that cannot fail of being highly gratifying to all true Philanthropists. Several States have enacted laws similar in their character and execution to the Maine Law, whilst others have adopted a variety of measures less stringent it is true, but yet well calculated to prepare the public mind for Total Prohibition.

There is perhaps a majority of the well informed among us who have arrived at the settled conviction, that the only remedy for the evils of intemperance is in legal enactments that shall so restrict the manufacture and sale of all spirituous liquors, except for Medicinal or Sacramental purposes, as will effectually do away with the present license system.

And it is gratifying to observe that the matter is regarded not only in a moral point of view, but as a necessary political reform on the score of public economy. The statistics of our State would undoubtedly show, that at least one half the Taxes paid for County purposes is expended in the arrest, trial, &c., of those who have been led to the commission of crimes through the use of intoxicating drinks. The Convention held in November last, adopted the draft of a bill, commonly called the "*Alabama Law*," and united in petitioning the Legislature to enact the same, or such a substitute as might, in its wisdom, be calculated to achieve the desired results. The May Convention passed various Resolutions to aid in its passage—Committees were appointed to solicit Ministers of the Gospel, Instructors of youth, Physicians, Ladies, and the voters of the State generally, to sign Memorials praying Legislative enactments. The Central Committees were requested to submit interrogatories to the several candidates for the Legislature in their respective Counties, to ascertain their views on, and readiness to advocate legal Reform. Many of the Committees have failed to perform the duty allotted them, and it is indeed perhaps to be regretted that a political cast was given the question, for the present at least. It is necessary to enlighten the public mind, to divest men of their long rooted prejudices, before we can gain their consent to a question of purely moral Reform; and the experience of leading advocates of the cause in other States, confirms us in the belief that, until this is done, much permanent good cannot be effected—In order to accomplish this, Lecturers of acknowledged ability ought to be obtained, to canvass the State and arouse the people on the subject. This, done, necessary enactments will follow as a matter of course.

Much good can doubtless be achieved by urgently petitioning the Legis-

lature now in session, for there are members of that body who are publicly pledged to advocate legal suasion to the utmost.

In accordance with the request of many friends of the Temperance Cause in the State, the President of the S. P. R. League has called a State Convention to meet in the city of Montgomery on Wednesday after the second Monday in the present month, and to further the objects of the League. Your Committee would most respectfully suggest the passage of the following Resolutions:

Resolved, That a delegation of 18 be appointed to represent this body in the State Temperance Convention.

Resolved, That this Convention as a body petition the Legislature now in session, to enact a Law giving precincts or counties the right of deciding by popular vote or otherwise, whether licenses shall be granted in their respective bounds.

A. G. McCRAW, *Chairman*.

[C.]

The Trustees of the Judson Female Institute would respectfully report: The number of Pupils on the Catalogue for the Scholastic year, ending, July 7, is *Two Hundred and Five*—being the largest number ever entered in one year. Of these *One Hundred and Twenty-One* were Boarders in the Institute, from Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana and Texas.

We desire gratefully to record the fact, that, with the exception of a case of inflammation of the brain, not a single instance of serious illness occurred in the Judson, during the whole Session.

While we rejoice in the multiplication of Female Seminaries of an elevated character, it is a subject of gratulation to the Trustees, that the Judson Female Institute maintains its position in regard to numbers, while its internal prosperity is continually augmented. In the perfection of its system and order, the success of its discipline, the ability and zeal of its instructors, the value of its Library and Apparatus, the thoroughness of its teachings, and the character of its moral and religious influences, the Institute is, every year, making decided advances, and rendering itself an instrument of greater good to the Baptist Denomination and to the community generally.

Two changes of importance have been made in the arrangements of the Institution, during the last year. The Session has been reduced from *Ten* calendar months to *Nine*, thus giving a recess of *Three* months, in the Summer season. This change is made in conformity with the wishes of our Patrons, generally. In point of fact, nothing is lost to the Pupils, because we now have a school on Saturday morning, contrary to our former practice.

Another change is, the formal extension of the course of Study over another session making the Regular course to occupy *Four* years. This has long been the case, in *fact*, but is now made so also, in *form*—the Classes being designated as Junior, Middle, Sub-Senior, and Senior.

The prevalence of the Yellow Fever among our Patrons in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, and its appearance at several points on the rivers east and west of us, has tended to prevent the early filling up of our school; yet the number now in attendance is *One Hundred and Seventy*—being only six less than were present on the first of December, one year ago. The fact that no case of Yellow Fever occurred in Marion or vicinity; and that there has not been a single case of fever of any kind in our town during the whole Summer and Fall will confirm the favorable opinion of this location, as unsurpassed for salubrity.

The Report of the Board of Visitors, on the last Examination, is herewith submitted.

Respectfully, E. D. KING, *President*.

S. H. FOWLKES, *Secretary*.

Marion, Dec, 3, 1853.

Judson Female Institute.

The Board of Visitors, appointed to attend upon the Annual Examination of the Judson Institute, submit the following Report :

The condition of this Institution was never so flourishing as at the present time. Its well merited reputation and known abilities of the Faculty, drew together, during the past year, pupils of more talent and intelligence than we ever before witnessed in any similar Institution.

The Examination of the Classes was placed entirely in the hands of the Board of Visitors, assisted by Professors and Teachers, found in the audience. It would protract our remarks to too great length, to notice the various classes, in the manner they deserve. In all of them, from the Primary to the most advanced, it was evident the principles of the branches taught had been thoroughly and completely mastered.

In the Primary and Preparatory Departments, we observed, particularly the distinct enunciation of the pupils, their self-possession, and the clearness with which they communicated their knowledge upon the subjects on which they were examined. Among other classes of great excellence, that in Geography attracted much attention—especially, for the readiness and accuracy with which they drew maps on the black-board. It must be apparent to every one, that the habits of thoroughness and accuracy acquired in these Departments lay the foundation, in no small degree, of excellence, attained by the Pupils of the more advanced classes.

The Classes in Botany, Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, and Geology, did themselves great credit. The principles of these sciences had been carefully explained, and the accurate and extensive knowledge which the pupils exhibited, bore testimony that they had assiduously seconded the exertions of their teachers.

The classes in Grammar, History, Evidences of Christianity, Intellectual Philosophy, Moral Science, Latin, and French, did themselves equal honor.

In the Department of Mathematics, the excellence of the systematic arrangement which is adopted in all the studies pursued in this Institution, was especially conspicuous. The class in Geometry and Trigonometry possessed special merit, demonstrating the more difficult theorems, and solving the most complicated problems with a correctness and precision worthy of all praise.

The Senior Class in Rhetoric, Logic, and Political Economy, exhibited a high degree of excellence. The able manner in which they discussed the most difficult subjects and the clearness with which they traced them through all their bearings, was alike honorable to themselves and their distinguished instructor.

The Halls appropriated to the Drawing, Painting, Embroidery, and Wax-work of the pupils, were especially attractive, and excited the highest admiration. There were upwards of a hundred and twenty pieces, consisting of specimens of Pencilings, Crayons, Colored Crayons, Pastille, India Ink Sketches, Water Colors, and Oil Paintings, all of them executed with the greatest skill, and possessing the highest degree of excellence. The great number, variety, and richness of the specimens of Embroidery, elicited abundant commendations. The vases of Wax Flowers, Fruit Dishes, loaded with Peaches, Pears, Cherries, Plums and Grapes, of the most delicate workmanship, were a tasteful and elegant addition to the other specimens.

The Music Department sustained itself with the highest honor and in a manner worthy of its former reputation. During the Examination, and at the Concerts, pieces of the greatest excellence were performed by the pupils, upon the Piano, Harp and Guitar, with the greatest skill, and in the highest style of excellence. The accuracy of their time, their perfect observance of the laws of harmony, and the brilliancy of their execution, gave evidence of able and skillful training. At the expiration of the scholastic year, Dr. Wurm's connection with the Institution ceased. In retiring from the situation which he has filled with so much faithfulness and ability, he carries

with him the respect and good wishes of the friends and patrons of the Institution. Deservedly high, however, as is the reputation of Doctor Warm, and great as is the celebrity which he has acquired by his connection with the Judson, we are happy to *know* that he is succeeded by a gentleman of equal ability, and of the same extensive and varied acquirements in his profession. We have entire confidence, therefore, that the Music Department of the Judson will continue to maintain its preeminence, as heretofore.

During the Examination, a great number of Compositions were read, all of them excellent, and many of them productions of choice merit. The success with which Composition is taught in this Institution, deserves something more than a passing notice. Commencing in the lower classes, and making use of "Parker's Exercises," the pupils are taught to think for themselves, and to express their thoughts with great readiness, at first with simplicity and clearness, and afterwards with all the additional beauties of style, of which the nature of their subjects will admit.

At the close of the exercises on Wednesday evening, the Principal presented to Miss Mary Newland, of Carroll County, Mississippi, a *Certificate of Scholarship*, as an honorable testimonial of her success in completing the English course of study in the Institute. From the high standing occupied by Miss Newland in all her studies, it is evident, she was in no respect inferior to any member of the Senior Class, save that she had not studied French or Latin, so as to secure a Diploma. The subject of her able and sprightly Essay was "If and But."

The Commencement Exercises were of a most interesting character, the Essays of the choicest merit, and listened to with breathless attention. Rich in thought, and sparkling with beautiful imagery, they were worthy of the Graduates of the thorough and elevated course of study pursued in the Judson. The Essays of the young Ladies were followed by an able and eloquent Address from Dr. Smart of Columbus, Mississippi.

In concluding our Report, it is but due to notice the good order and regularity which prevailed throughout every Department of the Institution.—The Government and Discipline are beyond all praise. The entire absence of all confusion from whispering, or from any other disturbance whatever, the lady-like demeanor, and the graceful manners of the pupils, were the subjects of universal remark.

The high reputation which the Judson has established, the unwearied exertions of the Principal, and his unparalleled success in the selection of able and qualified Professors and Teachers, inspire us with full confidence, that it will attain to a still higher degree of superiority, and diffuse still more abundantly, the blessings of Education and Refinement.

S. BENNETT, Louisiana.

J. H. BROWN, Sumter County.

W. P. SMART, Mississippi.

J. D. WILLIAMS, Wetumpka.

R. WOOTE, Marengo County.

ISHAM HARRISON, Jr., Mississippi.

A. SLEDGE, Marengo County.

J. M. CUNNINGHAM, Mississippi.

P. H. LENDY, Lowndes County.

JAMES MANNING, Marengo County.

J. G. MOREY, Mississippi.

W. H. McINTOSH, Eufaula.

H. TALMIRD, Marion.

J. H. DE VOTIE, Marion.

[D.]

Report of the Board of Directors.

DEAR BRETHREN:—We beg leave to return to your hands the trust you have committed to us during the conventional year which is now closed. We thank you for the confidence reposed, and assure you of our entire devotion to the interests of the Denomination.

The unfinished business of the Convention, at its last annual session, was devolved upon the Board of Directors, and they endeavored to discharge that duty to the best of their ability.

During the year they have received 7 new students into the Theological Department of Howard College; and they are gratified to learn that these young

brethren give great promise of usefulness. The number of students depending on the Convention for pecuniary aid in the prosecution of their studies, is six. The wants of several of these have been, or will be, met by Churches and Associations. Quite a number of promising young men have applied for aid, and expressed their willingness to enter upon a course of preparation for the sacred office; but your Board have been constrained, with feelings of deep regret, to refuse their applications for the want of means to assist them.

Dr. C. Billingslea, on his removal from Marion, tendered his resignation as a Trustee of Howard College, stated distinctly that he did this in view of the fact, that the Board at times found it difficult, on sudden emergencies, to obtain a quorum of its members for the transaction of business. He therefore desired that some one living in the immediate vicinity should take his place. Your Board accordingly elected J. W. Garrett Esq., to fill the vacancy, and to serve out his term of office. Your Board have since learned that brother Garrett has been elected President of the Board of Trustees of Howard College, and that he makes a most valuable and efficient officer. All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. TALBIRD, *President.*

[E.]

Beneficiaries of Howard College.

The Committee appointed to report a Plan for "rendering permanent needful aid to the Beneficiaries of Howard College, submit :

After considerable reflection given to this important subject, your Committee advise the adoption, by this Convention, of the following Resolution:

Resolved, That this Convention urgently request every Association, Church and Benevolent Association which may be from time to time represented in this body, to appropriate a liberal portion of the funds which it sends up annually for the support of the Beneficiaries of Howard College.

M. P. JEWETT, *Chairman.*

[F.]

Report on Domestic Missions.

The Committee on Domestic Missions, Report:—That the subject is one of increasing interest and importance, and demands a corresponding share of christian sympathy, and the substantial aid which a liberal spirit on the part of God's people only can furnish. Never, in the history of the Gospel, since the Apostolic age, has the Missionary enterprise offered a richer harvest. Never has the invitation to labor for God, been more cordial, or the obligations to carry out the great Commission of our Lord, pressed upon the hearts of his servants with greater solemnity. In the ordinary pursuits of life men are not willing to confine themselves to the modes of operation that were good in their day, but which have been displaced by the more efficient means of modern advancement. Science and Art, will have accomplished little for the world if they are not made available for the dissemination of the blessings of the Gospel. Foreign and Domestic Missions make their appeals to us, not as rival or conflicting interests but identified alike in their claims and in their objects. If we confine our view to our own State, our eyes fall upon regions uncultivated, yet inviting, and as the circle of our vision widens, these waste places rise up like mighty rivers, and by their desolation plead for that Gospel, that can make the "Desert rejoice and blossom as the rose." Much, doubtless, has been accomplished, but, much more remains undone that should be done, that *must* be done. Our Churches have not yet caught the spirit of earnest consecration to God, that makes every gift subordinate to his glory, every possession tributary to his cause.

Since our last meeting, by the action of the Southern Baptist Convention, a new feature in the operations of the Domestic Missionary Board, is presented to us. It is known to your body that a large number of Chinese have congregated upon the Western shores of our Continent. As if to chide our sluggishness, God has brought the heathen to our doors. Occupying as they

do, American soil, it is proper that they should be provided for by the Board of Domestic Missions, who we are pleased to learn, has appointed the Rev. J. L. Shack, their Missionary to the Chinese in California. The pecuniary demands of this Mission are greater than any other under the supervision of that Board, and must be met by an increased liberality on the part of Southern Baptists. The Board cannot stop here. What is one Missionary to forty thousand heathen? How shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent? And how can the Board send them, except the Churches furnish the means? Other fields, especially in the newly acquired territories of our Government, are opening every day. We cannot stand still in this work—we do not look forward to a time when what we have done shall be the standard for what we shall do. The claims of the unredeemed and our responsibilities are accumulating with every year, and in the same proportion should be the accumulation in our treasury.

Our benevolence must keep pace with the progress of the age, if we would preserve our fidelity to God, and good will to men.

We submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That Associations and other religious bodies, represented in this Convention, which sustain Missionaries within or beyond their own bounds, be requested to consider the expediency of co-operating with the Domestic Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, so far at least, as to allow annual reports of their receipts and disbursements to be made to said Board, to be incorporated with its annual Reports, and credited with the Domestic Mission Receipts for the State of Alabama.

W. H. McINTOSH, *Chairman*.

[G.]

Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools would report, that we have been talking and writing on this important subject quite long enough for us now to go to work. They therefore simply recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the members of no Church in our State should feel that their whole duty has been performed until one Sabbath School or more within the bounds of their respective churches, shall be kept up during the whole year.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. A. CONNELLA, *Chairman*.

[H.]

Report of Committee on the State of Religion.

The committee on the State of Religion. Report:—That in the early part of the present year there was an almost entire absence of revival intelligence in our denominational paper of this State; and a coldness, which could be felt, reigned over the Churches. It seemed that the Almighty was preparing the way for his judgments, by with-holding his blessings both temporal and spiritual. His judgments followed, and thousands whose hopes were high, and expectations as flattering as the delusions of an empty dream, are now slumbering in the voiceless silence of the tomb. But, "his mercy was not clean gone forever." The Lord remembered his promise and his people, and graciously revived his good work, poured out his Spirit upon the Churches, and rejoiced the hearts of his saints. Hundreds on hundreds have been born again, born of the spirit and of the water, to an inheritance, incorruptible, undefiled, and that *will never fade away*. The revival has been pretty general throughout the State. Although the numbers added to the Churches are not as large as in former years, yet we give thanks to God for what he has done for his Israel.

Submitted,

D. PEEBLES, Jr., *Chairman*.

[I.]

Report on Foreign Missions.

The duty of sending the Gospel to the heathen is not denied by many, at the present day, who possess the love of the Saviour. The Scriptures clearly establish it—reason and humanity demand it. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," is the Redeemer's last command. The duty is not only enjoined but the *measure* of it is prescribed. "Let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." The spirit with which it should be persevered in, is also revealed. "Freely ye have received, freely give." "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver."

The work to be done.

The present population of the Earth is estimated at about one thousand millions. Of which about six hundred and fifty millions are Pagans,—One hundred and fifty millions Roman Catholics,—One hundred and twenty millions Mohamedans,—Sixty millions attached to the Greek Church,—Eight millions Americans,—Six millions Jews, and about seven millions Protestants. The great mass of our race are sitting in darkness in the region and shadow of death.

Work Accomplished.

About fifty years ago the modern Missionary enterprise commenced. Since that period the Bible has been translated wholly or in part, into about two hundred different languages and dialects—spoken by eight-tenths of the people on the globe. About 2,000 Missionaries and 8,000 Assistants have been employed—4,000 churches organized—300,000 converts—3,000 Missionary Schools—275,000 pupils—40,000,000 Bibles and Testaments distributed. Although the Scriptures are published in languages spoken by eight-tenths of the people of earth, yet nine-tenths of them have never seen a copy of this book of books.

It may be well for us to enquire what have we, as Southern Baptists, done, and what are we doing in the vast work.

From the last annual Report of our Foreign Board we gather the following statistics:—19 stations and out-stations—39 Missionaries and Assistants—17 Schools—480 Pupils—644 Church members. These Missionaries occupy a little space in two cities in China, and a small part of the coast of Africa—four are on their way to the interior of that benighted land.

The same Report informs us that during the last Conventional year \$21,438.45 were contributed by Southern Baptists for the spread of the Gospel in Foreign lands. A small amount—unpardonably small, considering the number and ability of the denomination and the wants of a perishing world. Alabama alone ought to raise that amount for Foreign Missions, and a proportional sum for other objects.

Did our brethren realize that they are not their own—did they appreciate, to any considerable extent, the value of souls—were they filled with the spirit of the Saviour's Mission, they certainly would contribute with more liberal hands.

Your Committee feel that the present affairs in China claim special notice. That there is an extraordinary revolution now going on in that country is known to all. What will be its final result no one can, with any degree of certainty, predict. This may, however, be relied on with safety, that a door for the preaching of the Gospel to the Chinese will be effectually opened.

From the most reliable information in our possession, the Revolutionists are favorably disposed to Christianity, so far as they understand it, and will, doubtless, introduce this element into the Government they propose to establish. But, from their ignorance of the Christian system, they will introduce it in a crude form, involving many errors and absurdities. Yet the Bible will be recognized, nominally at least, as the standard book of religion—the Christian teacher will be protected and encouraged, public sentiment will be a standard to which the Missionary may appeal with success, that prejudice a-

gainst foreigners and new religion which has so long formed an almost insuperable barrier to the herald of the cross will be measurably removed.

Now is an important season to work—to send the minister of Christ, the bible—the colporteur—to enlighten public sentiment—to aid in forming that religious element of the new Government—that it may be a pure Christianity, the world's only hope.

Your Committee recommend the ministers and delegates to make a systematic and vigorous effort to raise \$5000, for Foreign missions the ensuing year. Respectfully submitted.

R. HOLMAN, *Chairman*.

[J.]

Report of the Committee to nominate the remaining Officers of the Convention.

The committee report as follows:

Wm. P. CHILTON, *1st Vice P.*

M. P. JEWETT, *2nd " P.*

J. H. DEVOTIE, *Cor. Sec'y,*

S. H. FOWLKES, *Treasurer.*

Directors:

A. G. McCRAW,

WM. HORNBUCKLE,

J. T. BARRON,

A. B. GOODHUE,

R. HOLMAN,

J. F. BAILEY,

W. N. WYATT,

J. W. GARRETT,

W. T. HENDON.

Which is Respectfully Submitted,

A. A. CONNELLA, *Chairman*

[K.]

Committee on the Memorial on Temperance.

The Committee appointed on Memorializing the Legislature of the State of Alabama, on the subject of Temperance report, recommending the following form of a Petition:

"Deeply impressed with the vast social and moral evils resulting to the people of this Commonwealth from the sale of intoxicating liquors, your Memorialists respectfully ask your Honorable body to pass a law, prohibiting the sale of intoxicating drinks, in any County, Town, or Election Precinct in this State, except on the petition of a majority of the legal voters of said County, Town, or Election Precinct."

Respectfully submitted,

S. HENDERSON, *Chairman*

[L.]

Report of the Committee on Education.

HOWARD COLLEGE had its origin in what we may call, by way, of special emphasis, *the necessity of the times*. It was thought that a denomination possessing the numerical strength, the wealth, and the intelligent piety, which the Baptist did, owed it to their country, as well as to themselves, to erect an institution of learning, which would not only compare favorably with those of other bodies of Christians, but which, at the same time, would commemorate to posterity their high appreciation of this sacred interest, and vindicate the claims of the Baptist Church to the confidence of an enlightened public. It was deemed to be an imperative duty, that we should provide some means for the proper education of such young men in our Churches as gave evidence of piety and talent, who should desire to enter the ministry. It was considered altogether practicable to raise within the State of Alabama a sum of

money adequate to the endowment of such an institution. That an object possessing such claims upon the affections, the understanding, the enlightened piety, and proverbial liberality of Christians, could fail, entered not into the calculation of the projectors of this noble enterprise. With an unfaltering trust, therefore, in the promise of God, as well as in the intelligence and piety of the Churches, they went forward with a noble self-sacrificing spirit; and for a time, the most abundant success rewarded their efforts. A substantial College edifice was reared, an able and judicious faculty employed, and a most flattering number of young men crowded its halls. We all thought that our brightest conceptions in regard to its completion and success, would be realized within a period of time which would mark its history as extraordinary.

But alas! a sad change has supervened. A reaction the most withering has paralyzed the whole enterprise, and the faith of the strongest staggers under the reflux tide. The painful truth is forcing itself upon our minds, that without speedy and vigorous action, all our expectations are doomed to disappointment—that after all our labors and anxieties, HOWARD COLLEGE will only serve to commemorate the folly and imbecility of those who projected it, as well as that of the denomination under whose auspices, and to promote whose prosperity, it was commenced!—that malignity, with withering scorn and scathing wit and sarcasm, will point at the crumbling walls of the edifice, and exclaim, "Fifty thousand Baptists in Alabama began to build, but were not able to finish!" That Baptist check that would not flush with shame at such an announcement, possesses an insensibility beyond the reach of disgrace.

And this is the melancholy picture which HOWARD COLLEGE presents at this time. The reliable endowment reaches only to about \$50,000. This amount, the interest of which being inadequate to meet the expenses of the institution under the most rigid economy, is gradually sinking; and unless the process be at once stopped by which it is thus wearing away, it will soon all be absorbed. For, in proportion as the amount diminishes, this sinking process increases. As the principal is absorbed, the interest becomes less, and as the interest becomes less, the lack is still to be supplied from the principal; and thus by a constant reaction of interest upon principal, and principal upon interest, the whole fund will soon melt away. If the Convention should require the Board of Trustees to lessen the expenses of the institution, and bring them within the legitimate income of the endowment, the present Faculty will have to be dismissed, and such an one employed as such diminished salaries will command. And one such retrograde movement would be disastrous in the extreme. It would instantly fall below the standard of all similar institutions—public confidence would be withdrawn—its halls would be immediately vacated;—and in spite of all our efforts to the contrary, it would sink to the grade of a common high school. And even this would be hoping against hope. That rebound which sinks it to this depth, we have every reason to fear, will entomb it beyond the possibility of resuscitation. Under the chagrin and mortification of failure, we should try to banish all recollection of the enterprise from our minds. Every remembrance of it would be with shame and confusion of face.

The scholarships which have been sold by order of the Convention to increase the endowment, so far diminishes the income of the College from tuition, as to make it imperative on the Board of Trustees, in the absence of any other means, to supply the deficit from the permanent fund. And as already intimated, this mode of procedure will diminish that fund in an accelerated ratio. This consideration is not urged to reflect upon the wisdom of the scholarship system of increasing the endowment; for, if one half of what is now needed to complete that endowment—(50,000) were let out in scholarships, the necessity of drawing upon the permanent fund would cease at once, since the interest on such amount would be amply sufficient to defray all expenses. And then, superadded to all this, a large portion of the

endowment fund has never yet been collected. Every year, more or less of the notes are becoming worthless by insolvency. About nine thousand dollars have already been lost in this way.

Dear brethren, these are mortifying truths, and gladly would we be spared the pain of announcing them. But every consideration of duty to God, to your body, to the denomination at large, and to the world, demands a faithful unvarnished statement of facts in relation to HOWARD COLLEGE. The question comes up with an emphasis, that will not down at our bidding, SHALL HOWARD COLLEGE LIVE OR DIE? Shall we go further, and preserve and perpetuate what we have already done, or shall we retrace our steps, sacrifice the labors and results of the last twelve years, fold our hands, sit down in inglorious ease and indolence, and permit that enterprise to fail, which, under God, we had hoped would give to many succeeding generations pious ministers to break to their souls the bread of eternal life, to the Churches an enlightened, educated and efficient membership, and to the world the most substantial and enduring monument of our Christian philanthropy? Shall we be frightened into imbecility by the first storm that impends over the work of our hands? Shall this institution, which we have in the most imposing and solemn manner dedicated to God, and to sustain which we have; by equally solemn resolutions passed for twelve consecutive years at our annual meetings, plighted our faith to the public, languish and die for the want of that aid and assistance which could be supplied without impoverishing a single member of the denomination? We think a response comes up from every heart, "No! no! no! We will struggle as we have never struggled before, to prevent such a catastrophe! We will summon our remaining energies, and invoking the aid of Him to whose sacred cause we have consecrated the enterprise, make one more effort to save it from utter and hopeless ruin, and the denomination from merited disgrace!"

Believing that we have rightly interpreted the feelings of our brethren upon this subject, the only remaining question to be considered is, what measures shall be adopted to place the College on a permanent basis? To this question, your Committee have given a careful, and they trust prayerful consideration; and will conclude this report by submitting to the Convention the results of their reflections.

Two plans have suggested themselves to the Committee, either one of which, vigorously prosecuted, would soon accomplish this desirable result; but neither of which will avail aught without an energy which no discouragement can relax. And before submitting them, it may be proper to remark, that which ever one of them shall be adopted by your body, if either, it must be adopted, not merely by recording the *votes* of the body in its favor, but by affording that substantial guarantee that it will be successfully carried out, not in speeches, votes, and resolutions, but in those willing cheerful offerings to the cause which the exigency demands. We believe that, so far as human instrumentality is concerned, the action of this Convention, now in session, vitally involves the destiny of the College. The crisis requires a more powerful agency than a mere calm and deliberate sense of duty can supply. To stand still is suicidal—to move forward in an ordinary gait, is to protract an agony and suspense, which have already become intolerable—to rush to the rescue with an enthusiastic ardor, is its only salvation.

The first plan to which we have alluded is this: Let the Convention resolve to raise annually five or ten thousand dollars, until the fund shall be completed—let the ministry in the bounds of each Association in connection with this body, pledge themselves to devote a portion of their time each year to this matter—let each pastor try to raise at least as much as one dollar from each member of his Church or Churches—and let the Board of Trustees immediately issue a short Circular, setting forth these facts, addressing a copy of it to every pastor in the State, known to be favorable to the cause. This plan, if it could be made to work, would enlist the energies of the en-

ture denomination—a desideratum which the most active agent could not accomplish—besides the saving of the salaries of agents.

It is believed that many of our Churches would take scholarships for their Pastors, if an opportunity were offered to them. And we take the liberty of suggesting this to the Churches, and earnestly ask them to make this provision in the College for the education of the sons of their pastors.

The second plan is to employ some competent agent for five years, with a suitable salary, who shall canvass the entire State, and earnestly solicit the brethren to relieve the institution. We say, that such an Agent ought to be appointed for five years for two reasons: First, we could scarcely hope that the fund could be completed in less time than that. At least fifty thousand dollars more are needed to place the College on such a foundation as is desired, and essential to its prosperity; and the most flattering success would not authorize us to hope that that amount could be raised short of five years. Secondly, the man who is to assume such an undertaking, must be taken from a permanent and responsible position, for which he is so eminently qualified, that he can only be spared for this service. And unless some guarantee of this kind be furnished, we cannot hope to command the services of such a man.

In conclusion, you will allow us, brethren, to indulge a single reflection: The success of our educational movement involves, in an eminent degree, the future prosperity of the denomination throughout the State. Any denomination of Christians, in this age of improvement and progress, which makes no provision for the education of its ministers, to say nothing of the rising generation at large, cannot expect to prosper. As a denomination, we believe we hold the faith in its purity, as it was once delivered to the saints. We believe that our principles are destined to spread throughout the world. The estimate which we place upon these principles will be measured by the character of the men whom we have chosen to defend them. The character of a denomination is always associated in the mind of the public, with the character of its accredited representatives. If they be ignorant and illiterate, such will be the esteem in which their denomination will be held. And as an earnest of what the Churches may expect from the Theological department of the College, we are permitted to record with gratitude to God, that during the three months vacation of the last Summer the labors of the students now in that department were blest to the conversion of more than three hundred souls. Such a seal of the divine approbation upon the enterprize, we trust will not appeal to our Churches in vain.

In the Report of the Board of Trustees of Howard College, there are two or three items requiring the attention of this body. The Trustees thought that a rigid enforcement of the policy recommended by the last Convention, in regard to the collection of the notes of the College, would seriously embarrass the operations of the Agent of the last year. They therefore concluded not to enforce it. It is certainly desirable to collect these notes as early a day as possible. We recommend, therefore, that the most speedy and judicious measures be adopted by the Board to collect these notes; and that in all cases of refusal to pay, suit be at once brought to enforce the collection.

In accordance with the wishes of the Board, we recommended the appointment of a Committee to nominate five suitable persons to fill the vacancies on the Board of Trustees.

The Report of the Trustees of the JUDSON FEMALE INSTITUTE shows a degree of prosperity in that institution equal to, if not surpassing, any other period of its history. We cheerfully recommend it to the favorable regards of the public as every way deserving its confidence and patronage. We recommend that the Report and the accompanying document be published.

Resolved, That it is the duty of the Board and the denomination to raise a fund amply sufficient to meet the necessity of the Institution until the el-

dowment is completed and the College placed upon a secure foundation.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Convention that the Board of Trustees of Howard College should not use the funds subscribed for the Permanent Endowment of the Institution for the current expenses of the School.

Resolved, That this Convention is gratified to know that the portion of the permanent fund used by the Board of Trustees to pay the current expenses of Howard College has only been used by the consent of the donors and that no blame attaches to them for using the same.

All which is respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL HENDERSON, *Chairman*.

[M.]

The Twelfth Annual Report of the Trustees of Howard College.

DEAR BRETHREN : We have, under the directing providence of our heavenly Father, completed the work of another year, and we beg leave to submit to your consideration the following report. :

He who directeth all things according to the counsels of his own will calls upon us to commence our annual communication with the language of mourning. Our venerable brother, Sheppard Spencer, Sen., of Sumter county, who was one of the most liberal benefactors, and devoted friends of the College has recently been called from the scenes of his earthly labors to the rewards of heaven. While we cannot mourn for this dear father in Israel, who has escaped from the toils and anxieties of earth, to the bliss of a tearless and eternal home, we deeply feel that we have cause to mourn for ourselves, and for the Institution of which he was such a valued and constant friend. We have not the facts, and even if we had, the limits of this report do not permit us to give a detailed biography of this devoted servant of Christ, but we could not be excused if we did not pause to offer this tribute of respect to the memory of this truly good man, so pre eminently worthy the sacred meed, "The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance." With this single exception, the last year has been signally marked for the divine favor upon your educational enterprise. At no former period in the history of the college has so large a body of new students entered its halls, or of this number so many young men of promise. Perhaps no year since the existence of the college has been more distinguished by a punctual and systematic discharge of duty in all the departments of instruction. No officer has suffered from ill health, and no sickness has occurred among the students to interrupt them in their course of studies. They have been industrious and have faithfully applied themselves to the duties assigned them, and, throughout the classes, have made respectable progress in their studies. The general deportment of the students, with scarcely a single exception, and their respect for the government of the college have been all that could be asked or expected. Very few cases of discipline have occurred during the year, and not one in which extreme measures have been necessary. Your Board recognize in this fact an index of the high tone of moral sentiment pervading the body of students.

The Faculty remain the same as was reported at the last session of your body, namely : Rev. H. TALBIRD, D. D., President and professor of Theology, and Moral Science, A. B. GOODHUE, A. M., Professor of Mathematics, N. R. DAVIS, A. M., Professor of Natural Sciences, L. BROWN, A. M., Professor of Languages, R. A. MONTAGUE, A. B., Tutor and Principal of the Preparatory Department. These gentlemen have fully met the highest demands of their respective departments. Several of them are too well known, and appreciated by the denomination to need any eulogy at this time. They are all worthy the fullest confidence, as men, as gentlemen and instructors, and it is a subject of congratulation to your Board that they have found it possible to secure such a Faculty for the College.

The number of students constituting the Theological Department for the past year was fourteen; of these six have been under the patronage of the Convention as its beneficiaries. The whole number of students received into the different departments during the year was one hundred and forty-eight. The Annual Commencement, held on the last Thursday in June, 1853, was one of great interest and highly creditable to the College and the graduating class.

The financial condition of the College is not materially different from what it was last year, and is as follows:

Due Oct. 1st, 1853, Theological Fund, Principal and Interest,	\$22,900 00
Literary Fund, Principal and Interest,	35,955 80
Total, Literary and Theological Fund,	\$58,855 80

Your Board have accomplished but little in collecting the notes given for the endowment of the College which have fallen due. They have not forgotten the direction of the Convention, at its last session, as touching this point. It will be remembered, however, that Rev. D. P. Bestor was appointed general agent, by your body, with the understanding that he would labor to complete, at once, the endowment of the College. It was thought that any coercive measures adopted by your Board for the collection of the College notes might have an unfortunate bearing on his agency. They have therefore deferred all action in the matter, and they respectfully inquire whether it might not be well for the Convention to give some more specific directions upon this delicate subject.

It is highly desirable that the denomination should be kept well informed as to the character and condition of the Theological Department of Howard College. Your Board have feared that a mistaken impression injurious to your Institution might result from certain modes of speaking of this department. It is sometimes represented to be subordinate to the College proper, and as a mere appendage to it. This manner of speaking is adapted to mislead, and to cool the ardor of the denomination, and their devotion to the cause of Ministerial education. It is true the College sustains a vital relation to the Theological Department, and one cannot prosper without the other. Of the fourteen Theological students, whose names are recorded in the last catalogue, some are in the Senior class, some in the Junior, Sophomore, Freshman, and Sub-Freshman classes. Now, if one professor was called upon to instruct all these classes he would be compelled to hear at least fifteen recitations daily, besides attending to the composition and declamation of each student by himself. This would be impossible, and any one, or even two men, would sink under such labors. In addition it will be seen that these young brethren while pursuing these branches of education are unprepared to enter fully upon the study of Theology. In view of all the circumstances by which they are surrounded, it has been the aim of your Board, aided by the advice and experience of the professor of Theology to furnish to those studying with reference to the sacred office a systematic and harmonious Literary and Theological education. Your Board are fully persuaded that these young brethren, when they have completed the course of study marked out for them will be found fully adequate to the wants of our churches in Alabama.

It has been the desire of the Board and the subject of their earnest prayer to learn the will of the Denomination whose interests they have been attempting to subserve, they have heard voices from a thousand sources, which urge them to go forward in the work. And the practical results of their labors, afford cheering evidence that the exalted Saviour has in infinite condescension linked your Institution as an humble instrumentality in the great chain of causes which are to result in the moral renovation of the world. It is believed and not without evidence that no similar institution, within the same space of time, and with a similar amount

of means at command has accomplished more in furnishing the perishing with the bread of life, and in facilitating the march of Zion. Brethren educated in this College and those who are now pursuing their studies in it have visited many regions of this State preaching "all the words of this life," and whenever they have gone the blessing of God has attended their labors. And it is not too much to say that hundreds and even thousands are now rejoicing in the hope of immortality who were brought into our Churches through their instrumentality.

We have stated that the last year was signally marked by the Divine favor on your educational enterprise. The present Collegiate year has opened with prospects still more bright and cheering. Large numbers of youth are rallying to the standard which you have erected for their benefit. Already *one hundred and thirty* have enrolled their names—a number unparalleled in the history of the College. A much larger portion of these than is usual have entered the higher Classes. Many of them are young men of piety, and possessed of extraordinary talents. This fact is not a little gratifying both to those who have been furnishing money to sustain the College and to those who have consecrated their lives to promote it. The predictions of the warmest friends of the enterprise have been more than realized for in the number of students, in the standard of education, and in general reputation there has been a steady advance. We mention this with devout gratitude to God, and with fervent prayer for his continued assistance and direction.

A growing conviction of the work in which you are engaged has rested upon the minds of your Board. But it is more and more deeply felt that the present endowment is inadequate to give sufficient support and permanency to the different departments of instruction. There is an immediate necessity for a sum of not less than thirty thousand dollars; and unless it can be raised there must be an annual diminution of the permanent fund of the College, until ultimately its Treasury will become bankrupt. The denomination will then have to begin anew a work which having more than half accomplished they allowed to fall into decay and ruin. In view of all these facts we are fully persuaded, that the denomination will not allow an institution which has done so much to raise the standard of learning both in its laity and ministry to perish for the want of a sum which the poorest Association in Alabama could contribute without even an approach to the scriptural standard of self-denial.

If the Convention will sustain and encourage the Board in any well directed effort to complete the endowment of the College all can be accomplished. And in order that the Convention and the Baptists of Alabama may have a clear understanding of what must be done, your Board subjoin a concise statement of the assets and expenses of the College. When the enterprise was undertaken it was decided that at least one hundred and fifty thousand dollars would be required to ensure its success. About eighty thousand of that amount, perhaps a few thousand more—have been raised. But a part of that sum has been expended in the payment of agents, in the erection of buildings, and in the purchase of apparatus. These expenditures have reduced the funds of the College to the amount, reported (\$58,855.80.) Even this amount if collected and so disposed as to enable your Board to command the annual interest promptly would, (were it not for the scholarship system) be sufficient to sustain the College, at its present position. But the money is still in notes, and a large portion of it given on the scholarship plan. In addition to this the amounts collected, and expended in the erection of buildings and in the purchase of apparatus was subscribed on the same plan. For these sums certificates of scholarships have been issued and not less than forty-six of the hundred and thirty students in the College are filling either single or permanent scholarships. This is a very material reduction of the tuition fees of the College. In the mean time several of the contributors to the endowment fund have become insolvent and

their notes can never be collected. Probably not over forty-five or fifty thousand of the \$28,855 in the hands of your Board can ever be made available. The annual expenditures of the College including the salaries of professors, the expense of chemicals, apparatus, books, &c., &c., do not fall short of seven thousand five hundred dollars. The interest on \$75,000 would be six thousand per. ann. and the tuition fees have raised from two thousand to twenty-five hundred dollars per annum. These facts constitute the ground of our appeal to the denomination for an additional fund of \$30,000 or \$25,000. Seventy-five thousand dollars of endowment will enable your Board to sustain the College in its present elevated position. This will give you time and opportunity to increase the fund for endowment to almost any extent, but if the denomination will not contribute so much to the education of our young men—our sons the future pastors of our Churches—your educational scheme must fail and a wound be inflicted on the Baptist cause in Alabama which a century will not heal.

We close this communication with an extract from an article prepared for the *South Western Baptist*. "When we reflect how much has been done, how near the desired point we stand, it is hard to conceive how the College is allowed to remain year after year in a dubious position. Its success and internal arrangements must be highly satisfactory to every reasonable mind. The mere point of location is certainly a matter of small consequence, so long as proper influences, healthfulness and accessibility are secured. In the two first, Marion is pre-eminent, and the present certainty of a Railroad communication with Selma leaves nothing to be desired. Sectional preferences should not be allowed to intrude in matters of great importance, and universal good. There should be an entire unity of feelings and unity of effort, without which nothing will be done. The denomination of our State cannot support two institutions of high order. Shall we then throw away the labor of ten years and begin anew because the centre of irradiation is not at our own door. Oh purify the heart of the selfish feeling, and let us enter upon the fulfillment of this noble end with souls warmly and entirely engaged for the general good. We want more sincere unity, more liberal self-sacrificing spirit.

Your Board will request the Convention to appoint annually a visiting Committee, who shall be invited to attend the annual examination of the College, and report to the denomination the efficiency and success of the students in Howard College.

The term of office of the following members of the Board of Trustees, being one-third of the whole, will expire with the present Session of the Convention, and a new election is necessary, viz: J. G. Shorter, L. B. Lane, W. P. Chilton, H. Tulbird, D. P. Bestor,

All of which is respectfully submitted.

G. W. GARRETT,
President Board Trustees.

[N.]

Report on the Southern Baptist Publication Society.

The Committee report that as it has been generally reported and published that either the President or Secretary of that body or both, would attend the Convention. Your committee believing that the most satisfactory information on all points touching the interests and plans of operations of the S. B. P. S., be obtained from those brethren, have concluded to present no other report.

C. F. STURGIS, Chairman.

[O.]

Report on Periodicals.

Your Committee again recommend the *Home and Foreign Journal* and *Indian Advocate*, as deserving of more liberal patronage.

The *South Western Baptist* now published in Montgomery has enlarged its subscription list during the past year; but this increase has not been sufficient to meet the increased expenses incurred by its removal. Its proprietors contemplate another removal to some place, where the price of labor, Rent &c. will enable them to publish it cheaper. In viewing this fact we recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That we have the fullest confidence in the present Editors and Proprietors of the *South Western Baptist*; and we will sustain them in any measure they may adopt to advance the interests of our paper; and should the contemplated removal be effected, we will still give it our support.

I. T. TICHENOR, *Chairman*.

[P.]

**Samuel H. Fowlkes, Treasurer in Account Current
with the Alabama Baptist State Convention.**

Dr.		Account.	Cr.
<i>Domestic Mission</i>			
1852.		1852.	
Nov. 10, To Cash Rec'd from		Nov. 26, By William Horn-	
Finance Committee.....	\$1557 85	buckle's Treas. Receipt....	\$1569 85
1853.		1853.	
Nov. 10, To cash Rec'd f'm Fi-		Nov. 30, By William Horn-	
nance Com. Seaman's Cause	3 00	buckle's Treas. Receipt....	25 00
Sept. 23, To Cash from Rev. H.			
Talbird his Sub. at last Con-			\$1583 85
vention	25 00		
	<u>\$1585 85</u>		

	<i>Indian Mission</i>		<i>Account.</i>
1852.		1852.	
Nov. 10, To Cash Rec'd from		Nov. 10, By C. F. Sturgis' cer-	
Finance Committee.....	\$1952 16	tificate	\$85 00
1853.		Nov. 10, By J. H. DeVotie's	
April 19, To Cash Rec'd from		certificate	101 00
a friend of Mis. at Benton,		Dec. 6, By J. F. Herrick's re-	
Ala	10 00	ceipt	145 00
	<u>\$1062 16</u>	Dec. 18, By J. F. Herrick's re-	
Nov. balance in hand.....	2 88	ceipt	728 28
		Dec. 18, By bal. in hand....	2 88
			<u>\$1062 16</u>

	<i>Foreign Mission</i>		<i>Account.</i>
1852.		1852.	
Nov. 10, To Cash Rec'd from		Nov. 10, By Eli Ball's, 2, Re-	
Finance Committee.....	\$901 69	ceipts	\$1118 08
Nov. 10, To Cash on hand as		Nov. 10, By balance in hand	48 15
per last report.....	51 24		<u>\$1166 23</u>
Nov. 10, To Cash Rec'd from			
Finance Committee for Af-			
rican Missions.....	157 53		
Nov. 10, To Cash Rec'd from			
Finance Committee for Chi-			
na Missions.....	4 60		
Nov. 24, To Cash Rec'd from			
Grant's Creek church to ed-			
ucate a girl in Mrs. Craw-			
ford's school, China.....	30 00		
Dec. 13, To Cherokee Associ-			
ation	2 15		
1853.			
Feb. 1, To W. H. Musgrove			
for African Missions.....	50		
Feb. 1, To W. H. Musgrove			
for China Missions.....	50		
April 19, To a friend of Mis-			
sions, Benton, Lowndes co.			
Ala	15 00		
	<u>\$1166 23</u>		
1853.			
Nov. 19, To bal. in hand....	48 15		

Domestic Bible

1852.	
Nov. 10, To Cash Rec'd from Finance Committee.....	\$326 11

Southern Publication

1852.	
Nov. 10, To Cash Rec'd from Finance Committee.....	\$362 86

General Purpose

1852.	
Nov. 10, To Cash Rec'd from Finance Committee.....	\$33 50
Nov. 10, To tax on Foreign Mission fund.....	50 00
Nov. 10, To tax on Domestic Bible cause.....	15 00
Nov. 10, To tax on Southern Publication Society.....	9 00
Nov. 10, To tax on Domestic Mission fund.....	40 00
Dec. 13, To cash from Cherokee Association.....	1 85
Dec. 13, To balance.....	27 73

\$157 08

Beneficiary Account,

1852.	
Nov. 10, To balance bro't forward (see last report)....	\$123 98
Nov. 10, To cash Rec'd from Finance Committee.....	331 11
Nov. 11, To cash Rec'd from A. W. Chambliss sub. at Con.	10 00
Nov. 11, To cash Rec'd from D. R. W. Melver.....	10 00
Nov. 11, To cash Rec'd from J. D. Williams.....	10 00
Dec. 1853, To balance.....	13 86

\$503 98

*To the President and Members**of the Ala. Baptist State Conv'n.*

The undersigned herewith submit the foregoing report, showing a balance due Indian Missions of \$2 88, also a balance due Foreign Missions of \$48 15, which after deducting \$27 73, over paid on General Purpose Account, and \$13 86, overpaid on Beneficiary Fund, Howard College, leaves a balance in my hands of \$9 44, subject to your order.

Respectfully submitted,

S. H. FOWLKES, Treas. A. B. S. C.

Audited and found correct,

J. T. BAILEY, Ch'm'n.

MARION, Ala. Nov. 30, 1853.

Cause.

1852.	
Nov. 12, By E. A. Blunt's Receipt.....	\$326 11

Society Account.

1852.	
Nov. 10, By Platt Stout's Receipt.....	\$362 86

Account.

1852.	
Nov. 5, By balance as per last Report.....	\$7 90
Nov. 10, By Platt Stout's Receipt.....	80 00
Nov. 10, By Platt Stout's Receipt.....	40 00
Nov. 10, By A. W. Chambliss' Receipt.....	20 00
Nov. 10, By deficit in funds not paid to Treas. (being an error).....	8 12
April 17, 1853 By expenses on Minutes from Montgomery.....	1 00

\$157 08

Nov. 1853, By balance (over paid).....	\$27 73
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Howard College.

1852.	
Nov. 25, By Blunt & Tutt's Receipt.....	\$21 55

1853.	
Jan. 4, By Mrs. T. B. Hinton's Receipt.....	20 00
Jan. 20, By Mrs. T. B. Hinton's Receipt.....	36 83
Jan. 24, By Mrs. M. Codey's Receipt.....	24 00
Jan. 24, By Mrs. M. Codey's Receipt.....	37 00
March 21, By Mrs. Hinton's Receipt.....	78 00
April 19, By Mrs. M. Codey's Receipt.....	6 60
April 19, By Mrs. M. Codey's Receipt.....	36 00
April 19, By Mrs. M. Codey's Receipt.....	42 00
April 19, By cash paid Miss Burk's girl's Receipt.....	4 00
April 20, By E. A. Blunt's receipt.....	50 00
April 20, By E. A. Blunt's receipt.....	50 00
April 20, By E. A. Blunt's receipt.....	70 00
June 1, By Mrs. Hinton's receipt.....	15 00
By am't J. H. Devotie's order on W. N. Wyatt.....	13 00

\$503 98

Nov. 1853, By balance (over paid).....	\$13 86
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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE---Continued.

21

BODIES CONTRIBUTING.	Foreign Miss'n.	Domestic Miss'n.	Dom.B Cause	Afr'n Miss'n	S. Pub. Soc'y.	Benfit H. Col.	China Miss'n	Gen'l Purpse	Foreign B.Cause	Cal. Beth'l T. Mis. E Soc'y.	Ind'n Mis.	Ir's Col.S. Bethel.A.S.	Total.
S. Spencer, Sen., Rock West Church,		6 50	5 00		5 00						6 50		10 00
Mount Pleasant Church,		10 00			5 05								5 05
Cahaba Church,				6 00									13 00
Concord Church, D. Co.,				100 00							100 00		10 00
Brother Jenkins,			104 18								200 00		6 00
"													300 00
Mt. Pleasant Ch. Tusc'a Co.,		2 00	75 45	1 60					10 00				304 18
B. So. Tuscaloosa Ass.													6 00
Talladega Church,								100 00					85 45
Liberty Church Dallas Co.,								24 50					100 00
Bethel Association,	2 70		75					15 55	5 00		25		51 15
Wetumpka Church,			2 00							1 00			16 00
Grants Creek Church,	12 00	22 50	5 75		9 50						9 25		60 00
Fellowship Ch. Perry Co.	9 00	9 00									9 00		27 00
Bethany Church,	10 00	22 00	13 00		4 00						12 50		61 50
Colerine Mission Box,		5 00	5 00										21 38
Cherokee Association,	1 25	16 45	1 00										18 70
Tuscaloosa Association,	27 50	10 00									31 00		76 50
Blountville H. M. So.	2 50	9 50											12 00
Bethel Church,	6 00	6 00											12 00
Hopewell Church,													95 00
Big Creek Church,	69 13	18 86			2 50								101 35
Spring Hill Church,	25 00	60 00	50						15 00		10 86		215 50
Selma Church,		19 00									40 00		19 00
Bethlehem Association,													51 50
Center Ridge Church,	12 24	16 24	51 50	5 10	2 40								53 50
Do. Mission S. S. Box,			11 09	65					45		90		3 35
Canaan Association,			50								18 30		36 60
Cossa River Association,	1 50	79 33							2 50				83 33

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE---Concluded.

BODIES CONTRIBUTING.	Foreign Mission.	Domestic Mission.	Domestic Cause.	African Mission.	S. Pub. Soc'y.	Benefit H. Col.	China Mission.	General Purpose.	Foreign B. Cause.	Cal. Miss. E. Soc'y.	Beth'l T. Miss.	Ind'n Br's Col. S. Beth'l. As.	Total.
Big Spring Church.	9 00	6 00	6 50						6 50				28 00
Sabbath Subscription.		125 00											125 00
" Hat Collection.	64 50	74 50								10 00		69 50	218 50
Col. by Bro. T. from Indiv's.	129 60												129 60
Total,	1005 68	1451 36	481 37	801 04	125 95	738 91	241 72	147 55	33 95	684 20	40 00	1127 31	7020 57

J. M. NEWMAN, Chairman.

Amount taken in Pledges for Domestic Missions to be paid at the next meeting of the Convention.....\$175 00
Pledges by Mt. Lebanon Church Dallas county for the New Orleans Church..... 10 00

The Auditing Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Finance Committee, have had the same under consideration and beg leave to Report---That the short time allowed to the examination thereof will not permit a thorough investigation, but the Committee are satisfied the same is correct, and recommend its adoption.
JAMES F. BAILY, Chairman.

Note.---In the above table the following amounts are designated to particular objects, Viz: For the beneficiaries of Howard College. By the Alabama Baptist Association, \$456 95. Montgomery Church, \$10. Providence Church, Dallas county, \$10. Coleraine Mission Box, \$11 38. for Mr. Bell. Providence Ladies Society \$20. Hopewell Church, \$25. For Mr. Freeman. Big Spring Church, for Mr. Webster \$2 50. For Domestic Mission of the Col. So. Bethel Association \$40. By the Union Town Church, for African Mission contributed by the col'd members of the county line Church \$7. For the China Mission, contributed by Miss Crawford through the Bigbee Association \$32 50. For the New Orleans church, contributed by the Siloam church to Domestic Mission \$63. Bethany church \$10. Spring Hill church \$10. For African Missions, Home Mission \$6. By the Concord church. H. Co. Wm. Jenkins, Sen., \$100. To educate a native preacher for the Creek nation, and \$200. For Missions in the Creek nation. For Foreign Bible Cause, for the China Mission, by B. So. Tusculossa Association \$10. By the Wetumpka church, \$5. For Sunday Schools, by the Do. Miss. S. S. Box, \$3 35.

MINUTES

OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALABAMA BAPTIST
BIBLE SOCIETY, HELD AT SELMA, DALLAS COUNTY,
ON MONDAY, 12 O'CLOCK, DECEMBER 5TH., 1853.

The anniversary sermon was preached on Sunday night, by the President, and a collection taken up amounting to \$271,-05, pledges \$60.

The Society was organized by the President, and delegates were received from the following bodies :

Liberty Association Bible Society—Jefferson Falkner.

Pine Barren Association Bible Society—K. Hawthorn, C. W. Hare, E. E. Kirvin.

Montgomery Baptist Church Bible Society—I. T. Tichenor.

Tuscaloosa Association Bible Society—Funds.

Tuskegee Association Bible Society—A. J. Battle, J. Newman, J. F. Hooten, Samuel Henderson, J. M. Watt.

Bethel Bible & Colporteur Society—W. J. Parker, A. A. Connella.

Central Association Bible Society—D. R. W. McIver, J. D. Williams.

The following persons enrolled their names as members by paying the amounts annexed :

L. B. Parker \$10 ; A. G. McCraw \$10 ; L. B. Lane \$10 ; J. H. DeVotie and Mrs. M. C. DeVotie \$10 ; David Gordon \$10 ; Bro. Bowden \$10 ; Walker Reynolds \$10 ; W. N. Wyatt \$10 ; D. A. Lamar \$10 ; F. L. Johnson \$10 ; D. R. W. McIver and Mrs. M. McIver \$10 ; I. T. Tichenor \$10 ; M. P. Jewett and Mrs. J. Jewett \$10 ; B. Melton \$5 ; Thos. Barlow \$5 ; Jas. M. Newman \$5 ; K. Hawthorn \$5 ; D. Law \$5 ; J. Curry \$5 ; H. Dubose \$5 ; Dr. McGruder \$5 ; G. Hopper \$5 ; A. A. Connella \$5 ; Bro. Cane \$5 ; J. I. Lamar \$5 ; Jas. Cleaveland \$5 ; C. W. Hare \$1 ; John Tolbert \$1 ; Jas. Brazier \$1 ; R. Holman \$1 ; J. T. S. Parks \$1 ; T. G. Keene \$1 ; P. H. Lundy \$2 50 ; W. Wilkes \$1 ; John A. Norwood \$1 ; J. F. Bailey \$1 ; E. E. Kirvin \$2 50 ; H. Talbird \$5 ; Mrs. T. M. Goodwin \$10 ; Bro. Suttle \$3 ; E. B. Teagno \$1 ; A. B. McWhorter \$1 ; J. F. Hooten \$5 ; R. P. Lide \$5.

These amounts are included in the report of the Financial Committee. Mrs. Reynolds \$10 ; Mrs. Philpot \$10 ; Mrs.

Newman \$10 ; Mrs. S. McCraw \$5 ; Mrs. M. L. Jackson \$5 ; Miss Anna Burr \$2 ; Mrs. Ann Weaver \$3 ; Mrs. Gray \$5 ; Mrs. Lavender \$5 ; Miss Malory \$1 ; Miss Mulory \$1 ; Mrs. Goldsby \$3 ; Mrs. Nance \$1 ; Miss Everts \$1 ; Mrs. Melton \$2 ;

Rev. JAMES H. DEVOTIE, re-elected President.

" P. H. LUNDY elected Secretary.

Appointed R. Holman, T. G. Keene and S. Henderson a Committee to nominate the remaining officers.

Financial Committee, J. F. Bailey I. T. Tichenor and J. D. Williams.

Adjourned to meet at the call of the President.

9 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Met at the call of the President.

Report of the Board read and adopted.

Report of the Board of Directors.

Immediately after the adjournment of the last Session of your body the Board appointed the Rev. J. D. Williams agent, who at once entered upon the discharge of the duties of his appointment, and labored with energy and success 9 months. Through his efforts a number of efficient Auxiliary Associational Bible Societies and their branches have been formed, and an increased interest excited in favor of the Bible cause.

This plan of operation which returns one half of the fund contributed to the Auxiliary in Bibles for distribution within its bounds, secures the necessary action in each Association in supplying their own destitution and also gives the proper direction of the funds contributed by Baptists to your Treasury to meet in part the demands made upon us for the other destitute fields of the Earth.

We heartily approve, and adopt this plan and recommend the formation of kindred Societies by all the Associations in Alabama. The Board has appropriated Six Hundred Dollars to establish depositories in Montgomery, Selma and Gainesville, two hundred dollars each.

The demand for the Word of Life is greatly increased both at home and in foreign lands. Recent events in China have opened an effectual door for the introduction of the Divine Word into that land which calls upon us to make an effort greater than has ever been put forth for the people of any language under heaven.

The Foreign Mission Board desires to appropriate \$2500 this year for Bibles to be distributed by their Missionaries, and the Bible Board at Nashville felt it to be their duty to appropriate \$2000 for this same great field to scatter abroad the written word of God through the instrumentality of Brother Roberts.

It is a gratifying fact that we have a translation of the New Testament made by Brother Goddard of the Missionary Union which is highly commended and approved by our Board and Baptist Missionaries on the field.

The Board confidently expects that the benevolence of the Baptists of this State in this work will correspond to the greatness of the blessings which we enjoy from this Divine source of light and Eternal life. Brother Stout not having made his final report we have not the means of knowing the amount of stock in Bibles on hand. Through the agency of our Auxiliaries we hope to do much more than we have accomplished in times past. J. H. DEVOTIE, *President*.

Report of the Treasurer referred to auditing Committee, consisting of D. Gordon, L. B. Lane and J. D. Williams.

Financial Report read and adopted.

The Report was read and adopted.

Appointed J. F. Bailey, D. Gordon and L. B. Lane a Committee to nominate a preacher for the next meeting of the Bible Society.

Said Committee nominated I. T. Tichenor to preach the annual Bible sermon.

TUESDAY, 6 1-2 o'clock.

Met at the call of the President. Prayer by O. Welch.

On motion, seven hundred dollars were appropriated for the distribution of Bibles in China, under the direction of the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, Va.

Report of Rev. P. Stout referred to the Board.

The Appointment of an agent referred to the Board.

All unfinished business referred to the Board.

Adjourned to meet in Marion, on Friday before the second Lord's day in Dec., 1854.

Officers.

JAMES H. DEVOTIE, *President*; E. D. KING, *1st Vice President*; T. G. KEENE, *2d Vice President*; P. H. LUNDY, *Secretary*; E. A. BLOUNT, *Treasurer*.

Directors.

M. F. JEWETT, L. Y. TARRANT, R. HOLMAN, H. TALBIRD, J. T. BARRON, A. B. GOODHUE, W. N. WYATT.

JAMES H. DEVOTIE *Pres't.*

P. H. LUNDY *Sec'y.*

Report of Finance Committee.

Collected on Sunday night,	\$271 05
Pine Barren Association,	126 35
Tuskegee Association Bible Society,	108 00
Canaan " " "	40 00
Central " " "	75 95
Liberty " " "	47 15
R. P. Lide.	5 00

Miss Anna Burr,	2 00
Bethel Bible and Col. Society,	10 00
Pledges Redeemed,	27 00
J. T. Parks sale of Bibles,	10 00
Rev. P. Stout sale of Bibles,	222 00
F. L. Johns on pledge redeemed,	10 00—\$954 50
Pledges redeemed since adjournment.	
I. T. Tichenor,	10 00
P. H. Landy,	2 50
Rev. D. R. W. McIver and Lady,	10 00
Montgomery Church Bible Society,	20 00
	<hr/>
	\$997 00

I. T. TICHENOR, Ch'n.

Received of Rev. I. T. Tichenor nine hundred and ninety-seven dollars, amount as above reported by him as chairman of Committee of Finance.

J. H. DEVOTIE,
Pres't. B. B. S.

P. H. LUNDY, Sec'y.

E. A. Blunt in Account with Alabama Baptist Bible Society.

<i>Cash Received.</i>			
1852,		Mrs. P. Paskel,	1
Nov 11. To amount on hand \$1150 77		Providence Church,	10
1853,		B. C. Foster,	2 50
April 21. To amount of Rev.		Sept. 30, Joshua Foster Treas.	
Jesse A. Collins per the		of Tuscaloosa Association B-	
hands of Rev. J. H. DeVotie.	35	ble Society,	25
Collections as reported by		Nov. 18, Wm. N. Wyatt Treas.	
Rev. J. D. Williams,		Cahaba Association,	41 15
Thos. P. Miller for Foreign		April 21, G. Good, (Rec'd of	
Distribution,	50	Rev. J. D. Williams),	10
C. Barnes, Foreign Dist'n.,	5	Total,	1510 97
" Home "	5	<i>Cash Disbursed.</i>	
J. L. Bliss, "	10	1852,	
M. B. W. Smith,	10	January 3, By amount paid	
John Battle,	5	to order in favor of Rev. A.	
Dabney, Palmer,	50	W Chambliss, omitted in for-	
Mrs. A. Dale,	1	mer act's,	10
L. W. Lawler,	5	January 14, Am't paid S. S.	
R. A. Walker,	5	Pooly's ac't, omitted in former	
Talladega Church,	11 50	accounts,	1 23
Mrs. M. Griffin,	2	1853,	
Hon. J. H. Watson,	5	April 23, Amount paid Rev. J.	
Mathew Turner,	10	D. Williams on salary as per	
Dr. H. A. Howard,	3	Rev. J. H. DeVotie's order,	200
Sampson Lanier,	2	July 4, Amount paid Rev. J.	
Mrs. M. T. Pouncey,	1	D. Williams as per Order	
M. A. Lide,	1	drawn by Rev. J. H. DeVotie	250
B. N. Lide,	25	Sept. 30, Amount paid Rev.	
J. E. Pouncey,	2	J. D. Williams by Joshua Fos-	
Jane Pouncey,	10	ter Treas. of Tuscaloosa As-	
B. Pouncey,	10	sociation B. Society,	25
A. Pouncey,	10	Oct. 12, Amt paid Rev. J. D.	
July 4, J. H. Brown,	100	Williams order in favor of M.	
Miss Mary Bates,	1	P. Jewett,	125

<i>Cash Disbursed.</i>		1854.
Dec. 2. By Am't of cash on hand,.....	899 74	Dec. 2, To Amount Cash on hand,..... 899 74
Total,	1510 97	

Your Auditing Committee find vouchers for all disbursements except for one charge of 25, dollars the receipt for which is in the letter from the Tuscaloosa Bible Society.

L. B. LANE, Ch'm'n.

ERROR.

REV. E. B. TEAGUE resides at Warsaw, Ala., instead of Eutaw, as embraced in the minutes.

APOLOGY.

Consequent upon removing to this place, and making arrangements for the publication of our paper, and a variety of hindering causes which we could neither foresee nor prevent, we have failed to get the minutes of the Convention ready for distribution until now. Had we anticipated such a delay, we should have refused to attempt their publication. As it is, we have to depend upon the known forbearance of our brethren, and hope to do better another time.—EDITORS SOUTH WESTERN BAPTIST.

MARCH 4, 1854.

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